

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





# RAD NEWSLETTER

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

AUG 26 1964

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

May 1964

No. 62

## RAD PICKS UP STEAM

Local people reported the completion of 953 RAD projects in the last three-months report period--a 25 percent increase over the total number of projects completed since the beginning of RAD in 1961.

For the quarter ending February 1, local people had completed a total of 4,822 rural development projects. The previous report showed 3,869 projects completed as of November 1, 1963.



"This report is highly encouraging," said John A. Baker, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of the Rural Areas Development Board.

"It indicates that the months and years of planning and hard work spent by local RAD committees are beginning to bear fruit. I expect to see a continued increase in the number of projects that come out of the planning and construction stages."

## THE FISHING IS FREE, BUT THE \$'s ROLL IN

Rancher Glen Childers borrowed \$4,500 from USDA in 1945 to build an irrigation pond, and later stocked it with fish provided by the Montana Fish and Game Department.

Childers couldn't charge for fishing because the State had provided the fish, but he made the free angling pay off anyway. He developed a hunting preserve, complete with lodging, board and guide services, and, in 1963, fishermen who came back later to hunt spent \$3,000 at Childers' ranch.

## HOW LONG? IN AVA . . .

How long does it take for RAD to start paying off?  
In Ava, Missouri, it took four years, but the results were worth waiting and working for.

Local people took the first step in 1955, organizing an industrial development corporation. By 1959, the tide of outmigration and declining income had reversed and an upward trend begun.

A281.9  
A982  
Cop: 2

Today business activity is more than \$1 million higher than it was in 1955, 120 new homes have been built and real estate values have increased 20 percent, two new industries providing 285 jobs are in operation and a third plant costing a quarter million dollars is under construction, new community facilities and recreation areas have been developed and agricultural marketing operations improved.

The industrial committee had little trouble raising \$24,000 to buy land for an industrial park, but it took the State's promise to build a highway before the committee could get a sporting goods manufacturer to locate there.

When officials of the company indicated they would like to open a plant in Ava, but that lack of good highways "would give us a transportation problem," the committee went directly to the State Highway Commission. Before the year's end, the Commission said a new highway would be built. Construction began the following year, and before the highway was completed, the sporting goods firm announced it would locate in Ava.



More than 1,200 people bought stock in the Ava Industrial Development Corporation to build a factory to house the firm. The plant was enlarged in 1962 with the help of a \$125,000 Area Redevelopment Administration (ARA) loan, and now the parent company of the sporting goods manufacturer is building a \$270,000 plant of its own in the industrial park.

The industrial committee also got a wood treatment plant to locate in Ava. The wood plant is now expanding to double its output. The plant, originally financed by a local bank and the Small Business Administration, employs 50 people at present.

Other advances include:

Agriculture--Feeder pig and feeder cattle producing and marketing programs that have more than doubled income from these two sources.

Recreation--Started an annual 8-day Glade Top Trail guided tour, which attracted some 6,000 people from 22 States its first year. In 1963, the Forest Service improved the Glade Top Trail area, using Accelerated Public Works (APW) funds. Erected a special lighting system to get tourists to drive through Ava rather than taking a bypass and erected highway signs proclaiming the town's scenic drives. Developed a roadside park with State help and bought 110 acres of land for future recreational use. Printed 55,000 brochures featuring Ava's tourist and recreational facilities.

Community Facilities--Got the Highway Commission to build the road which brought the sporting goods firm to town. Converted to a dial telephone system and got the telephone company to extend its service to 500 farms. Built a \$350,000 high school and a new jail, the latter financed in part with APW funds. Built permanent concrete bleachers and lighted the ball park at the fairgrounds. Expanded the city's water and sewage system.



### THREE NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL RAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has announced three new appointments to the National Rural Areas Development Advisory Committee. They are: Dr. A. June Bricker, executive director, American Home Economics Association; John P. Duncan, Jr., manager of Agri-Business Services for Southern Railway System and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and Joe D. Dwyer, Director, Department of Agriculture, State of Washington.

### FHA GRANT EASES POVERTY FOR SHARECROPPER HIT BY STROKE

Farmers Home Administration housing grants are helping improve living conditions for poverty-stricken families throughout the nation. Take the case of a sharecropper who was felled by a stroke five years ago. Bedridden, his wife must care for him full time.



The family lived in a two-room log cabin that had such gaping holes in the roof and between the logs that it let in wind, rain, snow, flies and mosquitoes. FHA arranged for \$1,000 worth of repairs on the house, the maximum possible grant. Now there is a new roof and new siding, plus an indoor pump.

### PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FINDS "FOUR PRIORITY AREAS" IN APPALACHIA

A Presidential Commission charged with preparing an action program for economic development of the Appalachian Region has identified "four priority areas" for public investment. They are:

1. Build more than 2,100 miles of highways and local access roads (over and above the interstate highway system) to open up the area for industry and recreation.
2. Improve the area's natural resources to promote intensive recreation development, including man-made impoundments for water-based recreation. Also step up efforts to improve and develop 9.5 million acres of pasture in the next five years and accelerate programs to more fully utilize the region's timber through the creation of local non-profit or public Timber Development Organizations.
3. Expand flood and pollution control work and speed the construction of modern water systems and sewage facilities.
4. Improve human resources through special programs for training and education, vocational rehabilitation, employment, welfare, health, nutrition and housing and carry out community development activities along RAD lines.



To follow up the "immediate, or short-run investment," the President's Appalachian Regional Commission recommended the establishment of an Appalachian Regional Commission consisting of the Governors of the participating States and a Presidential representative. The proposed Commission would coordinate development efforts and serve as a clearing house for both public and private development activities, thus providing a "continuing development effort."

The Presidential Commission recommended a program for financing local development activities through State and local development organizations and urged that for the first three years the Federal government pay 75 percent of the cost of hiring a small staff of professionals to help local people with their development efforts.

#### PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S POVERTY MESSAGE

President Johnson, in his poverty message to Congress, said that ". . . poverty is not a simple or an easy enemy. It cannot be driven from the land by a single attack on a single front. Were this so we would have conquered poverty long ago.

"Nor can it be conquered by government alone.

"For decades American labor and American business, private institutions and private individuals have been engaged in strengthening our economy and offering new opportunity to those in need. . ."

The President referred to the need for "five basic opportunities" to:

- \* Create work training and study programs;
- \* Encourage communities to develop comprehensive plans to fight poverty in which up to 90 percent of the cost may be provided by Federal funds the first two years;
- \* Recruit and train volunteers in the "war against poverty";
- \* Create opportunities for low-income rural people through loans and grants, and help them develop family farms and cooperatives; and,
- \* Establish a new Office of Economic Opportunity in the Executive Office of the President to coordinate the fight against poverty.

#### LOCAL PEOPLE REBUILD BURNED-OUT PLANT WITH FEDERAL HELP

Twenty-two jobs were saved at Fairfield, Idaho, when local people combined their own resources with Federal help to rebuild a lumber mill that had been destroyed by fire.

The sawmill and planing mill of Wendell Mill and Lumber Company--the only industrial plant in Fairfield--burned to the ground last year.

Company officials and the local RAD committee turned to Prairie Power Cooperative for help. Could the cooperative get a Section 5 loan from the Rural Electrification Administration to relend to the lumber company to buy new equipment?

REA sent a member of its RAD staff to Fairfield. He suggested the lumber company apply for a Small Business Administration loan. It did, and SBA agreed to make the loan if the Forest Service would provide access roads as needed for the firm to log timber in the National Forest. Forest Service agreed, and the plant was back in operation within three months after local people first met to save the mill.